



SANTA ANA REGIONAL STREAM BIOASSESSMENT MONITORING PROGRAM (SANTA ANA REGION)

What Is It?

The Santa Ana Regional Stream Bioassessment Monitoring Program is a SWAMP-funded ambient monitoring program that was initiated in 2006 and is ongoing. The first five years of the program used a probabilistic sampling design to measure water quality, and biological and habitat condition in wadeable streams within the Santa Ana Region. The current program uses a targeted sampling approach to reassess sites previously sampled under the probabilistic design as well as target new sites on the State's 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies and target unsampled streams of particular interest. Water quality, toxicity, and biological and habitat conditions are measured in the targeted sampling. Program objectives are to assess the biological integrity of wadeable streams in Region 8, identify streams that may require improvement of water quality, and determine appropriate management actions to improve the condition of impaired reaches.

Why is it Important?

The data collected under the probabilistic study were used to identify reference sites for the State's biological objectives program. The majority of ambient monitoring in Region 8 targets a few waterbodies, such as those in which TMDLs have been developed. The SWAMP-funded monitoring provides for a more thorough assessment of the health of the Santa Ana Region's rivers and streams and produces high quality data that can be used to assess ambient water quality and biological integrity, identify areas that may require further assessing, and determine appropriate management actions to improve the overall health of the Santa Ana Region's rivers and streams.

How Will This Information Be Used?

The data will be used to help identify waters that are impaired for inclusion on the Clean Water Act's 303(d) list. The data will be used in assessing the overall health of the rivers and streams in Region 8 and identify areas that may require further assessment. The data will be used to inform Regional Board management on appropriate management actions that may need to be taken to improve the health of Region's rivers and streams. Data from this study were used to identify reference sites for the State's [Biological Objectives](#) program.

Annual reports are produced for the Santa Ana Region and posted on the region-specific SWAMP website.